

Air Force Prime Time, a weekly news magazine for and about airmen stationed overseas, airs Thursdays at 8:25 p.m. Central European Time on AFN television. In this

week's edition, Air Force eye doctors work wonders in Mozambique, the best family support center in the Air Force is in USAFE, Rota Naval Air Station is home to small group of airmen, and more.

News briefs

GLH buyers

Potential buyers have recently approached some residents of Spangdahlem Air Base government-leased housing about looking at their homes, said Barbara Fritz, base housing office.

An association owns the GLH in Herforst and Speicher, she explained. As a result, the members of the association can put their units up for sale at any time; however, this doesn't negate the lease with the U.S. government.

Housing officials advise all residents that the owner association representative, TRIMOBIL, and a lawyer have buildings up for auction at the Bitburg court. People interested in bidding or buying a unit must be permitted access, but only after coordinating an official appointment with Fritz. Occupants don't have to permit access to their homes if it wasn't coordinated through the housing office, Fritz said.

"Residents should politely refuse any potential buyers that contact them directly and request they call the housing office at 06565-616560 to set up an official appointment," she said.

Scholarships

Staff Sgt. David Baughman, 52nd Equipment Maintenance Squadron, received the fifth-term Spangdahlem Top Three Council \$100 scholarship.

The top three offers \$100 scholarships five times per year. Applications, available at the education center, are due Sept. 7 for the next term. Scholarships are open to technical sergeants and below.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Lawrence Taylor at 452-5381.

Master Sgt. Terry White, 52nd Component Repair Squadron, won a \$2,000 scholarship from the National Logistics Officers Association. He receives his check Oct. 2-5 at the annual LOA conference in Atlanta.

Munitions inventory

The munitions storage area suspends all transactions Tuesday through Sept. 30 to conduct a 100-percent stockpile inventory.

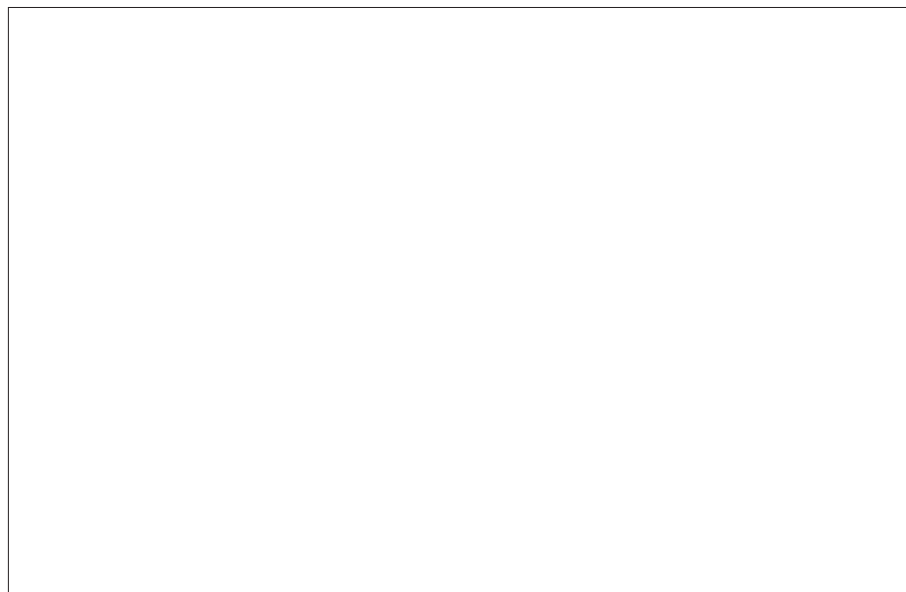
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Eifel Times

Vol. 35, Issue 30

Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany

Aug. 31, 2001



Capt. Angela Johnson

Defensive re-supply

Airman 1st Class Andrew Ruester (left) and Senior Airman Steven Hergott, 52nd Equipment Maintenance Squadron AMMO troops, re-fragg the chaff and flare to re-supply F-16s during exercise Tactical Fighter Weaponry-01 at Air Base Aalborg, Denmark. Eight F-16s from the 23rd Fighter Squadron arrived in the country Aug. 17 for the two-week exercise. About 150 airmen from Spangdahlem AB join those from the 603rd Air Control Squadron at Aviano AB, Italy; the 142nd Fighter Wing from the Portland, Ore., Air National Guard; and the 100th Air Refueling Wing and aircraft from Royal Air Force Mildenhall, England. Pick up next week's Eifel Times for more on TFW-01.

Base tests supply, trans merger with activation of new squadron

Compiled from staff reports

During a ceremony in the supply warehouse Aug. 24, the 52nd Supply and Transportation squadrons temporarily deactivated as they merged into the 52nd Logistics Readiness Squadron Provisional.

The merger of the two squadrons, along with the logistics plans, function into one squadron is one of the initiatives developed under the chief of staff logistics review. The CLR developed about 30 initiatives aimed at improving the way the Air Force does its logistics business.

Spangdahlem Air Base joins other bases, such as the 1st Fighter

Wing at Langley AFB, Va., the 388th Fighter Wing at Hill AFB, Utah, and the 28th Bomb Wing at Ellsworth AFB, S.D., selected as logistics readiness squadron test bases. The plan places sole responsibility for material distribution under one squadron.

"We cannot continue to live in the past, nor can we change the past; we have to learn from it and move forward," said Maj. Inez Sookma, first commander of the 52nd LRSP during her last speech as the 52nd TRANS commander. "I challenge each of you — do not look at this as the end of transportation, but rather, see it as the new beginning of the logistics readiness squadron as we merge

See LRS, Page 2

Officials offer avenue for pay problem resolution

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — A newly arrived lieutenant at a United States Air Forces in Europe base is not getting his overseas housing and cost-of-living allowance — a lot of money counted on to pay the bills.

The first thought of local officials: It must be that new personnel database. The lieutenant rolls his eyes. He has nowhere to turn. The system has screwed him up and he

faces months of financial headaches. Or not.

The people in the Air Force Personnel Center's customer service "call center" are on the job and have information for the lieutenant immediately. Turns out the solution will come from a quick visit to his local finance office. It was not the new personnel system after all, just a bit of information that needed to be updated.

Even if the culprit had been the personnel

system's new database, as with many of the calls lately, the call center would have been the right place to get the problem solved, if local officials could not fix it.

"We get about 2,000 calls a week and have great success quickly resolving the problem or at least referring it to the experts, who work cases directly with the person having the problem," said Master Sgt. David Melnick, call center superintendent here.

"We like to cut through the bureaucracy for them."

A snapshot of problems called in recently include:

- New officers not receiving correct pay and allowances;
- Re-enlistment and initial enlistment

See Call center, Page 2

Call center

Continued from Page 1

bonus problems; and

■ Delayed payment of promotion increases for new promotees.

Things like that are a huge inconvenience and cause unnecessary stress in peoples' lives, Melnick said.

Often the issue is miscommunication between agencies, units or the service member and personnel or finance officials, so the best place to start is at the local level, he said.

"The professionals here are committed to getting people answers for those personnel issues that affect their lives," said Col. Michael Schiefer, director of operations here.

The 24-hour call center has technicians answering the phones 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CDT at (800) 558-1404 or DSN 665-2949. After-hours calls are answered by voicemail so the caller can leave a message and get a call back the next duty day. The e-mail address is afpc.dpsfm@afpc.randolph.af.mil.

When contacting the call center, Melnick said customers should leave a detailed description of the nature of the

problem and provide the following information:

- Name;
- Social Security number;
- E-mail address; and
- Unit and duty phone.

Every query is tracked until it is resolved, Melnick said.

"Our technicians are ready to assist any way they can. If we're not the folks who can fix the problem, we'll find out who can," Schiefer said. (Air Force Print News courtesy of AFPC News Service)



Air Force Print News

President taps Air Force general top post

Calling Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers a man of "steady resolve and determined leadership," President George W. Bush tapped the Kansas native to be the next chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during a news conference in Texas Aug. 24. If confirmed by the Senate, Myers would succeed Army Gen. Henry Shelton as the top uniformed officer in the U.S. military, and become the first Air Force officer to hold that post since Gen. David Jones (1978-1982). Bush also nominated Marine Corps Gen. Peter Pace, currently commander of U.S. Southern Command, to become vice chairman, replacing Myers, who has held that position since March 2000.

Accidents

By Staff Sgt. Edward D. Paxton
52nd Security Forces Squadron
Reports and Analysis

(Editor's note: The term airman in this article does not necessarily mean Air Force people in the grades E-1 through E-4, but a generic term for all Air Force members.)

Eleven Team Eifel members experienced vehicle accidents in the past week, one of which was major.

The major accident occurred when an airman and a family member were operating a motorcycle in Spangdahlem and struck a German who was pushing a bicycle. A security forces investigation revealed the airman was traveling northbound on Stiftstrasse, when the German stepped into the road at the four-way intersection. The airman threw his motorcycle out in front of him to avoid a collision, but the momentum caused him to collide with the bicycle, forcing the bike into the German. Both the airman and family member were transported to the Bitburg Annex emergency room and treated for minor injuries. The German was treated at the scene.

The ten minor accidents involved:

■ Two for speeds too fast for road conditions.

■ Two accidents occurred while backing.

■ Six were from inattentive driving.

In addition, eight citations were issued this past week.

Security forces reminds people to keep in mind the following driving tip (as identified in U.S. Army, Europe, Regulation 190-1):

People who have a USAREUR license and operate a privately owned vehicle are understood to have given their consent to chemical tests for alcohol or other drugs on their breath or in their blood or urine if lawfully stopped, apprehended or cited for any offense allegedly committed while driving. The chemical test, administered by either U.S. forces or German civil authorities, is sufficient evidence for action under this regulation.

People who refuse to submit to chemical testing will be informed failure to do so will result in revocation of their license. German authorities may forcibly administer chemical tests according to their laws.

LRS

Continued from Page 1

with our fellow logisticians."

Seventeen Air Force bases are testing CLR initiatives. The test is scheduled to last until February. Air Force-wide implementation is scheduled for June 2002 to August 2003.

"This is part of the Air Force's continuing focus to provide better, faster, cheaper and smarter support to readiness, the war fighter, and their weapons systems as noted by Brigadier Generals Mansfield and Peterson," said Col. John Medlin, 52nd Logistics Group commander. "This combined squadron should provide a stronger focus on the day-to-day material management process, and when we must deploy, we will have a truly seamless capability." (Brig. Gen. Robert E. Mansfield Jr., current director of supply, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Installations and Logistics in the Pentagon, was recently selected for reassignment as special assistant for supply chain integration and logistics transformation also in the Pentagon. Brig. Gen. Teresa Mame Peterson is director of transportation, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Installations and Logistics in the Pentagon.)

The overall impact on squadron members will be minimal, Sookma said.

"The bottom line is our name is different, but our jobs are still the same," she said. "What we will gain is efficiencies in our internal workload, by combining efforts in several areas

that have a lot in common functionally."

Also included in the CLR test is realignment in the maintenance organizations.

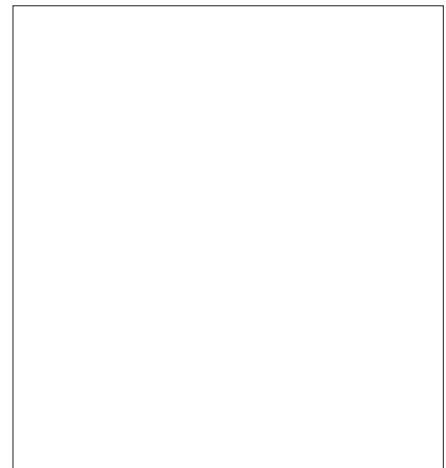
"By realigning various maintenance functions currently assigned to the operations group under the logistics group, we'll work the CLR challenges and sustain the wing synergy we've enjoyed thus far," said Lt. Col. Brad Reinert, 52nd LG deputy commander.

The functions include the maintenance operations center, engine management, maintenance systems data analysis, and plans, scheduling and documentation.

The creation of the logistics readiness squadron combined with the maintenance realignment is a tangible, logical step in providing support for EAF, Sookma said.

Medlin assured the men and women of the 52nd LRS they are in good hands with the selection of Sookma as the first LRS commander in U.S. Air Forces in Europe, and challenged those in attendance.

"What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us," he said, quoting Ralph Waldo Emerson.



Airman 1st Class Michelle Roquid

Maj. Inez Sookma (right) became the first commander of the 52nd Logistics Readiness Squadron Provisional during a ceremony Aug. 24 in the supply warehouse.

Snowballed quarterly award package earns airfield ops member Air Force-level attention

By Senior Airman Jennifer Lindsey
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

Usually when things snowball, it's not good, but for Master Sgt. Fredrick Soechting, the snowball effect took his airfield operations award package all the way to the Pentagon where he was named the Air Force Terminal Instrument Procedures Specialist (TERPS) for 2000.

Additionally, his wing-level quarterly award package served as a foundation for a yearly package that eventually won him a numbered Air Force 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year award.

Soechting admits he set his sights on winning, but not so he could hang another plaque on his wall, but to inspire others in his flight to give their best on and off the job.

"Four others in our flight won U.S. Air Forces in Europe-level awards in various airfield operations categories," Soechting said. "I'm really proud to be a member of such a small, but highly-professional flight."

As a 52nd Operations Support Squadron TERPS, Soechting sets the example in job knowledge and performance as an Air Force professional and as a team player, say his co-workers and bosses.

"We have one of the best flights within the OSS - people are involved and participating — and I believe a lot of it has to do with the example he sets," said Senior Master Sgt. Cris Kahle, 52nd OSS airfield operations superintendent.

Working with more than 60 airfield operations members, Soechting develops the safety procedures. Those procedures keep airfield operations from steering pilots into any one of the 4,000 obstacles within Spangdahlem Air Base airspace.

"That is a very labor-intensive, detail-oriented job," said Capt. Rick Ricker, 52nd OSS airfield operations commander. "It takes a person with an intense attention to detail to do that — and he has that sort of focus."

Soechting wanted to improve Air Force TERPS procedures to increase flight safety. While he says the current Air Force program is good, TERP specialists still have to perform many tasks manually, which takes time. Although another Air Force TERPS operator had developed a computer-automated database, the program still has limited capabilities as it offers only two-dimensional information.

"Because we think in three-dimensions, I wanted to transform the picture in our mind and put it onto the computer screen," Soechting explained.

He then downloaded Spangdahlem AB's 4,000 obstacles into the CAD system and enhanced the program to produce printable three-dimensional images and improved calculations.

The new program provides answers to safety concerns in about half the time it once took to manually

calculate the data, he explained. However, until the program is officially validated by the Air Force, the facts must be proven manually.

Soechting hopes by proving the benefits of the new program, he can get the Air Force online with point and click software to do the TERPS job.

The new program also assisted the airfield operations flight to achieve an excellent rating in a major air traffic systems inspection.

Additionally, Soechting noticed a discrepancy in the way an Air Force TERPS program was designing approaches. He notified U.S. Air Forces in Europe who put out an Air Force-wide warning for members to look out for this particular discrepancy. The warning avoided potential safety problems that could have occurred if TERP specialists didn't know about the discrepancy.

"As a flight commander, I have to put my trust in the TERPS guy because the field involves so much training, is so detailed and there's so many regulations you have to understand and be able to apply. There's no way a flight commander can get his arms around the program," Ricker said. "You've got to trust your TERPS guy and he is one of two, out of six I've worked

with, I feel I can absolutely trust 100 percent of the time."

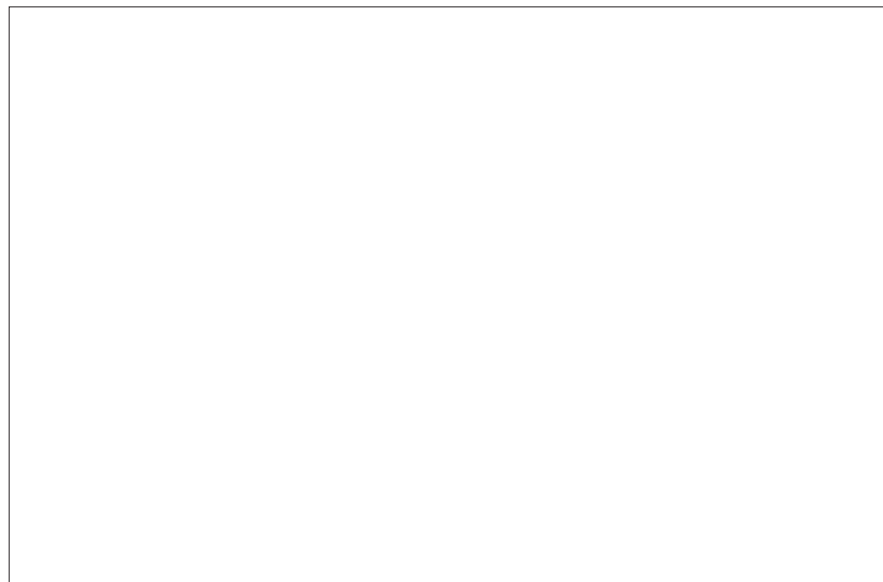
Kahle said he's more than a TERP specialist, "that's just a bonus. His mentoring is just unbelievable. He's 'gung-ho' without putting people off. He'll pull someone to the side and tell them how their uniform is supposed to look."

Even with officers, Ricker said. "He's not afraid to speak for what's right and I think that's one of the most admirable things I see in Soechting. Regardless of whom he's talking to, you know he's going to speak the truth and he's going to speak it from his heart. He has a tremendous impact on the morale and discipline here."

Soechting also speaks out at the base airmen and NCO professional development courses, and as part of the U.S. Air Forces in Europe enlisted congressional delegation where he speaks on enlisted issues.

"I love the military and what I do," said Soechting.

He said he couldn't meet his goals without his family's encouragement and understanding of the long hours he spends in the office. He also credits flight leadership for taking the time to nominate him for the awards and for believing in him.



Airman 1st Class Michelle S. Roquid

Terminal Instrument Procedures Specialist, Master Sgt. Frederick Soechting shows Airman 1st Class Crystallynn Rawle and Tech. Sgt. Ricardo Young changes in instrument approach procedures at the ground controlled approach facility at Spangdahlem Air Base. All three are assigned to the 52nd Operations Support Squadron.

Spang troops 'wage war' over Nevada desert

Unit hones skills during Red Flag

By Staff Sgt. Cindy York
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office (deployed)

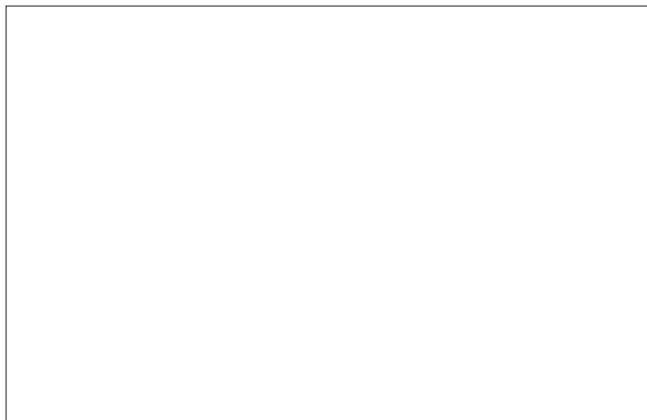
NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. — With "war" waging over the Nevada desert as well as a month-long trip back to the United States, the 22nd Fighter Squadron maintenance crew is keeping busy both on and off the flightline.

About 170 maintenance and support people, mostly from the 22nd FS, are deployed to Nellis AFB for Red Flag 01-4.

The squadron actually arrived two weeks before the exercise to fly against pilots in the U.S. Air Force Weapons School. The extra time allowed everyone to adjust to the 30-degree rise in temperature, as well as the time change, before the scenario started.

Established in 1975, Red Flag is the largest composite training exercise in the world. A typical Red Flag exercise involves a variety of attack, fighter, bomber and refueling aircraft, according to the Nellis AFB Red Flag Web site. Participants this time include people and aircraft from Air Combat Command, Air Mobility Command, Air National Guard, Air Education and Training Command and U.S. Air Forces in Europe, as well as the United Kingdom and Canada.

For the pilots, this training is crucial, according to Lt. Col. Tim Strawther, squadron commander.



Staff Sgt. Cindy York

Airman 1st Class Joel Nicholson, 22nd Fighter Squadron crew chief, closes a panel on an F-16 after replacing a filter. The 22nd FS is deployed to Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., participating in Red Flag.

"This two-week exercise is invaluable for the squadron to prepare for Air Expeditionary Force and real-world combat operations," Strawther said. "The Stingers will be (SEAD) escorts for more than 40 strikers, who will try to get their targets against aggressor aircraft and surface threat arrays."

Strawther said the airspace, training and sortie support equipment here are "the best in the world."

For maintenance and support crews, Red Flag tests the way they do business as well.

They're able to see if they brought all the equipment and parts needed to sustain flying operations.

"We're using this deployment to validate our kits for future tasks," said Master Sgt. William Harner, 22nd FS maintenance production superintendent.

Besides testing the squadron's deployment procedures, he said working in this environment provides opportunities not available at Spangdahlem Air Base.

"The maintenance is about the same as back home and we're flying a similar

amount of sorties, but there are a lot of differences here," Harner said.

For one, without the benefits of a full squadron, people are getting the opportunity to fill higher positions than they do at home station. Also, because they're doing maintenance in a different location, Harner said they're "a little out of their comfort zone and are now able to grow and fine-tune their deployed talents."

At Spangdahlem AB, maintenance is mostly performed inside hardened aircraft shelters. Here, it's done on an open-ramp, allowing people to see everyone else. According to Harner, this allows his troops, as well as those from the back shops, to jump in and help out their coworkers if necessary, where back at home it's not always possible because everyone is working in different locations.

"It's a total team effort, even with those from other squadrons. With everyone in one 'office,' people jump in and help where possible to get the jets in the air," he said.

Since several of the troops have limited experience outside of Spangdahlem AB, Harner said he expects Red Flag will help his people to see their jobs at home in a different and more positive light.

"This exercise gives the younger troops the opportunity to be around other squadrons and aircraft," Harner said. "They now have the chance to compare our outstanding Spangdahlem maintenance team to other F-16 units and can see how awesome we're actually doing."

Briefs

Continued from Page 1

During the inventory, only emergency requests submitted in accordance with directives will be processed. For more, call Master Sgt. Robert Keyser at 452-6230.

Air Force Ball

The Company Grade Officer's Council-sponsored Air Force Ball Sept. 7 celebrates the service's 54th birthday. Social hour starts at 6 p.m., with dinner starting at 7 p.m. in the Spangdahlem Air Base fitness center.

This year's theme is "NATO and Spangdahlem Air Base United in Airpower." Brig. Gen. Robert Elder Jr., NATO Reaction Force Air Staff deputy director at Allied Command Europe in Kalkar, Germany, is the guest speaker. Dress is mess dress or semi-formal for military members.

Top three meeting

The Spangdahlem Top Three Council meets at 3 p.m. Sept. 12 in the Saber Club. All senior NCOs and master sergeant selects are invited to attend. For more information, call Master Sgt. James Rosel at 452-6112.

Consular Outreach Day

Because of the Local Salty Nation Phase II exercise scheduled for Sept. 17-21, the Consular Outreach Day originally scheduled for Sept. 19 will be rescheduled.

Job fair

The civilian personnel office sponsors a job fair 2-6 p.m. Oct. 1 in the Spangdahlem AB officers club. Depending upon background checks, officials said there is the potential for on-the-spot hiring.

For more information, call Jane Allen at 452-9491.

Community Mailbox

Spangdahlem TKS hours

TKS in the Spangdahlem AB main exchange changes its hours to 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 2-6 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

OCSC function

The officers and civilians spouses club holds a special activities and membership coffee at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the Spang Club. For more information, call Shelly Fallis at 06561-670174.

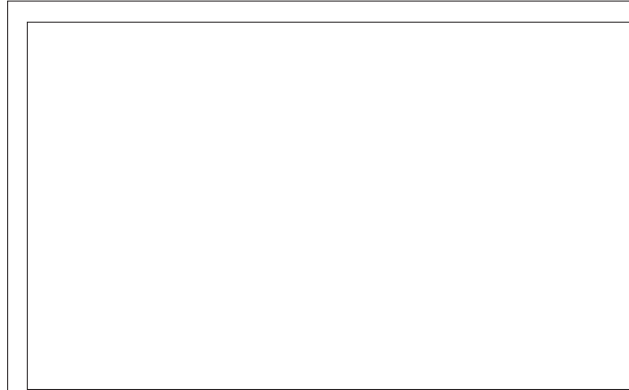
Back to school night

The Spang Club serves hot dogs, hamburgers, potato salad, chips, baked beans and cobbler during its back to school night 5:30-8 p.m. Thursday. Cost is \$6.95 for adults, \$3.95 for children 7-12, \$2 for ages 4-6 and free for those 3 and younger. For more information, call 452-7494.

Chapel potlucks

Protestant Unity Sunday joins all worship services together at 10 a.m. Sept. 9 at the Bitburg Annex medical group pavilion for worship communion and a potluck. In case of bad weather, it takes place in the Bitburg Annex Chapel. This is the only Protestant service for the day.

Catholic Mass in the Grass Sunday joins all Catholic communities at 10:30 a.m. Sept. 9 at the Spangdahlem AB pavilion near the bowling alley for mass and a potluck. In case of bad weather, it takes place in the



Staff Sgt. Kimberly Cook

All an act

Clerk of the court (Senior Airman Christopher Brooks) swears in witness Dr. Thomas Kirkland (Staff Sgt. Tommy Ziegler) in front of Judge William Heath (Senior Master Sgt. Doug Roberts) during a rehearsal Tuesday for the upcoming "Night of January 16th" performances. ACT Eifel holds the interactive dinner theater Sept. 7-9 and 14-15 in the community activities center. Dinner is served at 6:30 p.m. followed by the show at 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$19.95 per person; however, senior airmen and below pay \$9.95 only Sept. 7. Tickets are available at ITT.

Spangdahlem AB Chapel. This is the only mass for the day.

For more information, call the Spangdahlem AB Chapel at 452-6711.

Pre-teen lock-in

An all night pre-teen (ages 10-12) lock-in for youth activities cardholders takes place 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. Sept. 15 in the Spangdahlem AB Teen Center in building 458. Activities include tournaments, karaoke, crafts and more. For more information, call 452-7852 or 452-7545.

First aid, CPR class

The American Red Cross holds a community first aid and safety course 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sept. 15 in the Bitburg Annex Red Cross in building 2001. To register or for more information, call 452-9440.

Voice, piano lessons

Beginning in September, the community activities center offers voice and piano lessons 2-7:30 p.m. Thursday. Each half-hour lesson is tailored to the level of the

individual student and ability.

Piano lessons require a free initial consultation with the instructor before the first lesson. Cost is \$12.50 per session.

To register or for more information, call the CAC at 452-7381 or 452-7260.

Archery club

The Eifel Archers holds club meetings at 1 p.m. the second Saturday of the month at the Oberweiss Annex archery range near the Pet Spa. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Christopher Hoyles at 452-7618.

Puppy kindergarten

A class for puppies' 6-months-old and younger takes place 5:30-6:30 p.m. Sept. 18 through Oct. 19. Call the pet spa at 452-9362 for details.

Holiday bazaar

Private organizations interested in operating a food booth at the 2001 Eifel Holiday Bazaar should request applications by Oct. 1. Call Diane McNamara at 06562-932840, Roberta Shipp at 06575-903414 or e-mail FOODBOOTH01@aol.com for details.

Thrift Shop news

■The Penny Lane Thrift Shop offers "cram a bag" for \$3 on summer clearance clothes on specially marked racks 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday.

■The thrift shop accepts winter items and holiday decorations for consignment.

■The shop closes Sept. 1, but opens instead Sept. 8.

■Shop hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, 4-6 p.m. Thursday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. the first Saturday of each month.

At Your SERVICE

SPANGDAHLEM

Chapel

- ▶ Catholic Mass: 11:45 a.m. Wednesday-Friday; 5 p.m. Saturday; and 9:30 a.m. Sunday a.m. Sunday
- ▶ Catholic religious education, 11 a.m. Sunday
- ▶ Protestant Sunday worship: 11:15 a.m.
- ▶ Protestant Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.

Child development center

- ▶ Monday-Friday, 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Commissary

- ▶ Monday-Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- ▶ Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- ▶ Saturday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- ▶ Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Main exchange

- ▶ Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

- ▶ Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

BXtra (shopette)

- ▶ Monday-Sunday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Gas station

- ▶ Monday-Saturday, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.
 - ▶ Sunday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- (NOTE: This is a 90-day test of these hours.)

Outdoor recreation

- ▶ Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- ▶ Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Airmen's Attic

- ▶ Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Bowling center

- ▶ Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.
- ▶ Friday-Saturday, 11 a.m. to midnight
- ▶ Sunday, noon to 9 p.m.

BITBURG

Chapel

- ▶ Catholic Mass: 9:15 a.m. Tuesday and 11:30 a.m. Sunday
- ▶ Catholic religious education: 9:45 a.m. Sunday
- ▶ Protestant Sunday worship: 8:15 a.m. liturgical; 9:35 a.m. contemporary; and 1 p.m. Gospel
- ▶ Protestant Sunday school: 11:30 a.m.

Child development center

- ▶ Monday-Friday, 6:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

Commissary

- ▶ Monday, closed
- ▶ Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m.
- ▶ Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- ▶ Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Shoppette

- ▶ Monday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

Furniture store

- ▶ Monday, closed
- ▶ Tuesday-Sunday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Main exchange

- ▶ Monday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

Gas station

- ▶ Monday-Saturday, 6:30 a.m.-7 p.m.
- ▶ Sunday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Car care center

- ▶ Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
- ▶ Saturday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- ▶ Sunday, closed

Airmen's Attic

- ▶ Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Oberweiss Annex

Pet spa

- ▶ Monday-Saturday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

BACK TO SCHOOL



Dr. Joe Tafoya
DODEA director

Going beyond charter

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Department of Defense Education Activity is going beyond its charter in an effort to help military children.

DODEA is responsible for 80 schools in the United States and 160 overseas. Children at most stateside bases go to regular public schools not affiliated with the activity. But no more. The activity has picked up on a problem that faces military children, and the activity is perfectly placed to help fix it.

Military families move a lot. This impacts education in many obvious ways, but also in an unexpected one. The push toward testing has put some DOD children at a disadvantage. For example, some states require students learn state history before they can graduate from high school. That's not a problem for children who have been in the school for the full four years. But what if you are a senior transfer from Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, or Kadena Air Base, Okinawa? Are you going to take New York, Virginia or Kansas state history with a bunch of freshmen?

Recently, nine public school districts serving large Army posts signed a memorandum of understanding with the Army to work out problems like that. DODEA director Joe Tafoya would like to see this process expand.

"I've met with state school board officials from Washington state, and they are interested," he said. "We'd also like to see this expand to the other services."

What it comes down to is how DODEA and the states work together to educate military school children.

"How do we provide and coordinate services?" Tafoya asked. "We need to know what (local school districts) are doing and they need to know what we're doing. There's no effort here to make everyone have the same curriculum. But if we're going to do a particular program in our schools, those (local) schools out there that will get our kids need to know what we're doing."

For example, many states require students study geometry to get a high school diploma.

"We need to ensure we are providing that background in case their parents are based in that state," he said.

Ensuring a school in Newport News, Va., accepts a course taken at Spangdahlem AB is another part of the equation. DODEA will work with

stateside school systems to ensure this happens. But that is not the most important aspect of this.

"A seamless transition between schools is not only transcripts, it's quality of curriculum and it's academic preparation to be successful regardless of where they go to school," Tafoya said.

There is a certain rhythm in moves for military members. Often they end up back at the same bases time and again. Tafoya wants DODEA to take a longer-range view of curriculum.

"Military people move so much," he said. "Often we don't look long-range enough. We need to take that long-range view, because we will get those kids back, and we need to ensure we're making the right choices in curriculum."

But there are limits, and most involve money.

"We only have a certain size pie," Tafoya said. "It's not going to get bigger, so we need to slice it in a different manner."

DODEA did some different slicing in Europe. The activity beefed up school staffing there.

"We worked with European-area Parent-Teacher Associations to downsize from eight school districts to six this year, and five next year," he said. "Through this, we've generated 45 positions and we are putting those positions in the schools as middle-grade teachers, nurses in every school and reading recovery specialists."

The Pacific schools do not have the same flexibility as Europe. There are only three districts in the Pacific.

"We want to assist them in getting the same staffing benefit," Tafoya said. "We'll have to take the people out of headquarters allocations."

DODEA must provide a certain level of quality and services regardless of where children are around the world. The ranges of schools make this sometimes 'academic.' One-third of the DOD high schools are the traditional grades 9 to 12. One-third are grades 7 to 12 and the final third are grades K to 12.

"In some of our small and remote locations we need to ensure the kids are getting the same kind of qualities and 'the comprehensive high school experience' that they are getting in our larger schools," Tafoya said. "How do you provide that in a place like Izmir, Turkey, with 32 kids in the high school and a graduating class of seven? How do you provide the same quality there as you do in Okinawa with 900 kids in high school?"

These are questions Tafoya plans to address in the next school year. He wants to visit all the schools in the DODEA system by the end of the year. He wants to meet all the principals, teachers and children he can and pitch DODEA's theme for the school year: "Making a difference."

Dr. Joe Tafoya, Department of Defense Education Activities director, visits Spangdahlem Air Base and Bitburg Annex DODDS schools Sept. 9-11 and geographically separated unit schools Sept. 13-14.

A parents meeting takes place at 3:30 p.m. Sept. 10 in the Spangdahlem AB community activities center.

For more information, call Audrey Burkel, Eifel schools liaison officer, at 452-6942.



Wendy Martin
wife of U.S. Air Forces in Europe Commander Gen. Gregory Martin

Been there

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — "I truly believe the military and DODDS are working together for our children," was the message Wendy Martin, wife of U.S. Air Forces in Europe Commander Gen. Gregory Martin, shared here with Department of Defense Dependent Schools teachers in the Kaiserslautern Military Community Aug. 22.

The mother of three welcomed teachers back for the new school year by addressing them during

the first orientation meetings at Kaiserslautern Middle School and Kaiserslautern Elementary School.

Two of the Martin children attended DODDS schools and now have successful careers. The remaining son, Tyler, currently attends Ramstein High School.

But Martin's ties to DODDS go beyond that of a parent. She once taught at Stearley Heights Elementary School in Okinawa, Japan. It is there that she worked with Chuck Lockwood, now principal of Kaiserslautern Middle School, and Dr. David Markewitz, a school psychologist who is

now the principal of Kaiserslautern Elementary School.

Her daughter, who graduated from college with honors two years ago, is a successful financial analyst. "But, there was a time when she had trouble with school," Martin said. "The year that mattered to her and made the difference was while she was in DODDS."

Martin is currently working with DODDS-Europe Deputy Director Diana Ohman to build stronger ties between USAFE schools, American communities in Europe and local host-nation communities. (USAFE News Service)

Movies

All movies play at 7 p.m. unless otherwise indicated. More movie synopsis information is available at:

www.aafes.com/europe/eur_mov/snop.htm

Bitburg Castle

Today

Jurassic Park 3 (PG-13)

The Lost World's Site B has been quarantined for five years, but when a boy trying to get a look at the creatures gets stranded there, a rescue mission is formed, comprising the boy's divorced parents, a few mercenaries and Dr. Grant. There've been some unpleasant developments since Dr. Grant was last there.

Saturday

Jurassic Park 3

Sunday

The Animal (PG-13)

After a near-fatal car crash, Marvin has no idea he is about to become a guinea pig for a bizarre procedure in which his body is repaired with a strange fusion of animal organs. As the animals within him start to take over, his world gets more unpredictable.

Closed Monday and Tuesday

Wednesday

Evolution (PG-13)

Community college professors, Harry and Ira, are clearly waiting for something better to happen in their lives. When they're called in to investigate a meteor crash site they see an opportunity for discovering alien life on Earth. Then, of course, they start to figure out that might not be such a good thing.

Thursday

Jurassic Park 3**Spangdahlem Skyline**

Tonight

Planet of the Apes (PG-13)

In 2029, Astronaut Leo Davidson boards a space station for a routine reconnaissance mission, but an abrupt detour lands him on a planet where talking apes rule the human race. The race is on to reach a sacred temple to discover the shocking secrets of mankind's past and the key to it's future.

Saturday

Atlantis: The Lost Empire (PG; 4 p.m.)

Milo Thatch dreams of completing the quest begun by his late grandfather. When a long lost journal surfaces, providing new clues to the location, the action shifts into high gear. Thatch leads Commander Rourke and his team to the elusive undersea kingdom, but what they find there defies their expectations.

Planet of the Apes (10 p.m.)

Sunday

Atlantis: The Lost Empire

Monday

Swordfish (R)

This is the story of the world's most dangerous spy — a charismatic, multifaceted man hired by the CIA to coerce a computer hacker recently released from prison to help steal \$6 billion in unused government funds. In exchange, the hacker can regain custody of his daughter and start a new life.

Tuesday

Swordfish

Closed Wednesday and Thursday

Times and movies are subject to change.
For the most current information,
call 452-9441.

Bernkastel gears up for wine fest

Event draws visitors to Mosel River town

By Iris Reiff

52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

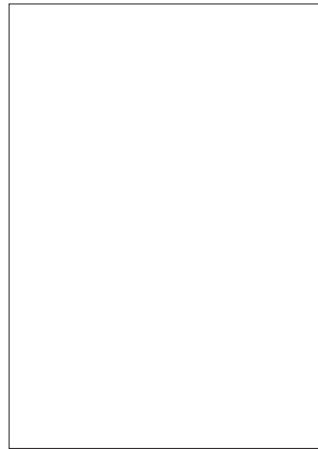
Bernkastel, a popular holiday site, celebrates its traditional wine festival of the middle Mosel today through Monday.

More than 20 wine growing towns take part in the annual fest, the largest of its kind along the Mosel River.

Visitors to Bernkastel, the center of the Mosel wine industry, can experience the delicious Riesling wines at one of the town's old wine-cellars or enjoy the area hospitality and entertainment offered in hotels, wine taverns, restaurants or traditional coffee houses.

The adventurous can follow a cobblestone path behind the statue in the square through seemingly endless vineyards. Take your time, snap lots of pictures and take a break to enjoy one of the most beautiful panoramas of the Mosel River, with the largest continuously linked vineyard slopes in Germany.

The mayor of Bernkastel welcomes guests between 6-7 p.m. in the town's market square, when amusement rides and wine stands open. The original Polish Ottmichow folk and dance group, the Bernkastel-Kues city music association, a group of Bernkastel-Kues scouts, local fanfares and the musicians Willie Sonnen dance, perform music and sing German songs relating to wine and the beautiful Mosel area. The Nikolaus-Kues gymnasium school's big band sets people into the right



Courtesy photo

Festival visitors flock to the folk parade in Bernkastel, which takes place at 2 p.m. Sunday.

mood with a concert 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the market square.

Activities continue at noon Saturday with more dances by the Ottmichow dancers in the market square and other performances by brass band players and local music associations. Dutch musicians walk through the Weinstrasse to entertain visitors with Dixieland tunes and other music. Several European bands perform in well-known town spots.

A highlight of the middle Mosel wine festival is a giant fireworks display from the Burg Landshut Castle and the Mosel shore 9-9:30 p.m. Saturday. Built during the 13th

century, the castle ruins lie atop a vine-clad hillside. The display is recognized as the biggest pyrotechnic spectacle along the Mosel River.

The "Jay" band performs 50's and 60's music 9 p.m. to midnight.

More music by European groups, wine tasting and fun take place Sunday. Performances start at the town's Moselland hall and continue throughout the day.

Another popular event during the Bernkastel fest is a colorful folk parade at 2 p.m. Sunday, featuring 90 floats and bands parading through the city. This is a good opportunity for photographers.

After the parade, music and dancing continue through the evening, featuring various music and dance ensembles. A concert by Thomas Schwab and Band takes place 7:30-10:30 p.m. in the market square.

Activities Monday feature more music and fun throughout the day until about 10 p.m.

Family day is noon to 8 p.m. Tuesday with reduced-price rides at the amusement park.

As with most fests, food is available everywhere throughout the entire festival.

The 45-minute drive from Spangdahlem Air Base to Bernkastel along the Mosel River is a delightful scenic route, which takes travelers through valleys and around hills.

With its medieval architecture, Bernkastel-Kues is a favorite holiday site for Mosel travelers and wine connoisseurs. It will be crowded during the weekend so get there early to find convenient parking. It's not advised to bring small children.

Out and about

■Participate in the "Pleasant Pruem Valley" bicycling eldorado event Sunday, when roads will be blocked off to all vehicles between the towns of Olzheim and Waxweiler. About 15 communities offer music, entertainment and food to bicyclers, in-line skaters and other visitors. About 20,000 visitors are expected at the event, which starts at about 9 a.m. and finishes about 5 p.m. For more information, contact the Pruem Land tourist information office at 06551-505.

■For people who don't like to bicycle, visit a flea market Sunday inside and outside the Bitburg Flugplatz hall; inside and outside the Kroev Halle; along the Zeltingen Mosel shore; at Trier-West Hornstrasse, near the Aldi store; and at the Koblenz Alte Viehmarkt hall.

■Enjoy one of Europe's

greatest festivals daily through Sept. 10 in Luxembourg city. The Schobermesse offers about 200 rides, fun booths, sales stands and other attractions. Wednesday is family day with reduced prices. The legendary "Braderie" street sale is scheduled for Monday. Numerous businesses offer their products in the streets of the town center. The city will be crowded that day. It is advisable to park outside the city, at Kirschberg, and use the park and ride shuttle service to the events. Buses run every 10 minutes to and from the events. For more information about the Schobermesse festival, go to www.fouer.lu.

■Plan to attend the Aachen city festival Sept. 7-9 and combine your visit to the festival with a sightseeing tour.

■Enjoy wine tasting and Mosel food specialties at a wine

festival now through Sunday in Leiwern or Saturday through Monday at the vintner's and wine festival of Mehrling.

■See a World Championship qualification car race at the famous Nuerburgring race track Saturday.

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Information, Tickets and Tours offers the following tours in September. Children prices are for ages 3-12 unless otherwise indicated. Call the Spangdahlem Air Base Community Activities Center at 452-6567 or the Bitburg Annex Community Center at 452-9120 for details.

■Bernkastel wine festival, Saturday, \$20 for adults, \$15 for children.

■Rothenburg city festival, Saturday, \$40 for adults, \$35 for children.

■Rhein River cruise, dinner

and wine tasting, Sunday, \$55 per person.

■Oberhausen mall, Monday, \$25 for adults, \$20 for children.

■Bad Dürkheim wine and sausage festival, Sept. 8, \$25 for adults, \$20 for children.

■Brussels express, Sept. 8, \$40 for adults, \$35 for children.

■Paris with one overnight, Sept. 15-16, \$185 for adults, \$130 for children.

■Rhein in Flames, Sept. 15, \$80 per person.

■Ramstein Air Base bazaar, Sept. 15, \$20 for adults, \$15 for children.

■Oktoberfest overnight, Sept. 22-23, \$179 per person.

■Oktoberfest express, Sept. 22, \$70 per person.

■Cochem medieval dinner, Sept. 22, \$65 per person.

■Oktoberfest express, Sept. 29, \$70 per person.